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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/680,518	10/07/2003	Louis Gerber	36182	5030

116 7590 02/20/2007

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EXAMINER	
GUZMAN, APRIL S	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2618	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/680,518	GERBER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	April S. Guzman	2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *07 October 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *07 October 2003* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *06/21/04*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement submitted on 06/21/2004 has been considered by the Examiner and made of record in the application file.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the boxes in Figure 3 are not labeled with the corresponding name of the elements. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the title of the invention replace "Wirele s Microphone" with --Wireless Microphone--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Liu (WO 94/29968)** in view of **Braitberg et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,479,479)**.

Consider **claim 1**, Liu teaches a wireless microphone (microphone 325B) comprising a radio transmitter (Tx 324A) for transmitting radio signals carrying audio signals to a hearing device (speaker 306) (Figure 3B, page 6 lines 9-18, and page 7 lines 6-24)

However, Liu fails to teach a wherein the wireless microphone comprises at least one coupling element for detachably fixing one of various interchangeable functional modules to the wireless microphone, said coupling element comprising electrical contacts for electrically connecting the interchangeable functional module to the wireless microphone when the interchangeable functional module is fixed to the wireless microphone by means of said coupling element.

In the related art, Braitberg et al. teach a universal connector 45 arranged in accordance with a predetermined assignment of pin functions. On the opposite side end of cable 46 is a connector 48 configured to attach to a particular cellular phone. Connector 45 can include an arrangement for providing a signal to the using device attached to plug 45. The conductors within cable 46 are connected with plugs 46 and 48 so that the pin functions are match. Eight gold contacts are formed slightly convex in

order to create miniature leaf springs which provide pressure with the contacts of the mating connector (column 6 lines 36-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Braitberg et al. into the teachings of Liu for the purpose of providing a universal physical and electrical connection to a plurality of different kinds of hand-held cellular telephone units and to establish appropriate electrical interfacing support operations.

Consider **claim 2, as applied to claim 1 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach wherein the coupling element constitutes a bidirectional electrical interface between the wireless microphone and the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone (Braitberg et al. – Figure 14, Figure 15, column 6 lines 36-46, column 11 lines 56-59 and column 12 lines 47-54).

Consider **claim 3, as applied to claim 1 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach wherein the coupling element is designed to fix the interchangeable functional module to the wireless microphone by mating with a coupling element of the interchangeable functional module (Braitberg et al. – Figure 14, Figure 15, and column 6 lines 47-60).

Consider **claim 4, as applied to claim 1 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach wherein electronic modules of the wireless microphone are connected to one or more of the electrical contacts for bidirectional exchange of electrical signals between said electronic modules and the interchangeable functional module fixed to the

wireless microphone (Braitberg et al. – column 10 lines 11-30, and column 14 lines 56-64).

Consider **claim 5, as applied to claim 1 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach wherein the wireless microphone comprises an electronic control module (microprocessor 208), said electronic control module being connected to one or more of the electrical contacts for exchanging electrical control signals with the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone (Braitberg et al. – Figure 14, Figure 15, and column 13 lines 5-38).

Consider **claim 7, as applied to claim 1 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach wherein the wireless microphone comprises an electronic audio processing module (audio interface 236), said electronic audio processing module being connected to one or more of the electrical contacts for exchanging electrical audio signals with the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone (Braitberg et al. – Figure 14, Figure 15, and column 11 lines 36-46).

Consider **claim 8, as applied to claim 1 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach wherein the wireless microphone comprises an electronic audio processing module (audio interface 236), said electronic audio processing module being connected to one or more of the electrical contacts for receiving electrical control signals from the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone (Braitberg et al. – Figure 14, Figure 15, and column 11 lines 36-46).

Consider **claim 9, as applied to claim 1 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach wherein the radio transmitter (Tx 324A) (Liu – Figure 3B, and page 7

lines 6-24) is connected to one or more of the electrical contacts for exchanging electrical signals with the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone (Braitberg et al. – Figure 14, Figure 15, and column 11 lines 21-35).

Consider **claim 10, as applied to claim 1 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach wherein the wireless microphone comprises a power source module (power supply 228), said power source module being connected to one or more of the electrical contacts for supplying power to the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone and/or for receiving power from the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone (Braitberg et al. – Figure 14, Figure 15, and column 10 lines 52-67).

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Liu (WO 94/29968)** in view of **Braitberg et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,479,479)**, and further in view of **Safadi (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2002/017339)**.

Consider **claim 6, as applied to claim 5 above**, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. further teach control module (microprocessor 208) being designed for transferring electrical control signals to the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone (Braitberg et al. – Figure 14, Figure 15, and column 13 lines 5-38).

However, Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. fail to teach wherein the wireless microphone comprises operating elements, said operating elements being connected to the control module, and said control module being designed for transferring electrical control signals to the interchangeable functional module fixed to the wireless microphone in response to operation of said operating elements.

In the related art, Safadi teaches a modular component 50 having a user interface 60. User interface may comprise a keypad if modular component 50 is a cellular phone or user interface may comprise keypad or a touchpad and keys if modular component 50 is an audiovisual playback device ([0020]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Safadi into the teachings of Liu as modified by Braitberg et al. for the purpose of a user of a modular portable device to interact with various intelligent devices and authorize and control various services to be provided by the respective components.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (see PTO-892 Notice of References Cited).

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to April S. Guzman whose telephone number is 571-270-1101. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edan Orgad can be reached on 571-272-7884. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April S. Guzman
A.S.G/asg

EDAN ORGAD
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

2/14/07